

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A tracheostomy tube having a flange selectively attachable to and detachable from the tubular body. Utilizing an attachable flange that is not attached to the tracheostomy tube body until the flange has been inserted into the trachea enables the tracheostomy tube to be inserted by way of a radially expandable introducer sheath, thereby preventing substantial deformation of the body being dilated in the direction of movement of a dilator. In another embodiment, a tracheostomy tube/loading dilator combination is provided. The loading dilator has a larger-diameter proximal portion and a smaller diameter distal portion tapered at its distal end. The smaller-diameter distal portion is sized for insertion through the longitudinal bore of the tracheostomy tube such that the tapered distal portion extends axially beyond the tapered distal tip of the tracheostomy tube. The tracheostomy tube further includes a stop portion at its proximal end for engaging a distal portion of the larger-diameter proximal portion of the dilator, to limit axial movement of the loading dilator through the tracheostomy tube. Additionally, a tracheostomy tube/dilator combination may be provided having a locking assembly. In a further embodiment, a trimmable tracheostomy tube having a variable length is provided, such that the tracheostomy tube may be adjusted for use with patients of various size.